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Hongkong, 18th January, 1889.

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22, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL,
Hongkong, 12th January, 1889.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1889.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter.)
EGYPT.
LONDON, January 16th.
The Arabs have deposed the King of
Uganda.

The dervishes are advancing against Wady
Halla.

PARLIAMENTARY.
Parliament will re-assemble on February
21st.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THERE will be a game of Polo at Causeway Bay
to-morrow, at 4 p.m.

We read that the Miike coal mine was transferred to
the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha on the 1st inst.

A CERTAIN Madame Hess of Paris has refused
5000 francs for her hair, which is six feet long.

LEONARDO DA VINCI of Italy—the man who
painted the original picture of "The Last
Supper"—was the inventor of the wheel-barrow.

It is rumoured that the Korean Government
have under consideration the establishment of a
Consulate at Nagasaki to facilitate trade between
Japan and Corea.

An Emergency meeting of Zetland Lodge, No.
525, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland
Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely.
Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

The appearance of the Empress Eugenie is
described vividly by a Paris correspondent as
follows:—A fragile form, veiled and robed in
black, a pallid face and snow-white hair, and the
infirmary of a rheumatic invalid—such is the
image now presented by her who was the most
famous beauty on earth, and the world's queen
of fashion as well, some thirty-five years ago.

A CRICKET MATCH will be played to-morrow,
commencing at 11 a.m., between the following
cleverness:—

Major Johnston, R.E. (Capt.)	T. S. Smith (Capt.)
L. D. Ditcher, R.N.	E. M. Blair, R.E.
Capt. Caldwell, R.N.	Dr. Nathan, R.E.
Capt. Calder, R.N.	Major Miller, R.N.
Dr. Martin, R.N.	P. Egerton, R.N.
Dr. Brumwell (R.N.)	W. O. Lyne, R.N.
Three others.	L. Little (R.N.)
	R. P. Fitzgerald, R.N.
	Another

SMALL steel and iron articles in the house are
very difficult to keep bright. They easily become
oxidized and always want continual polishing.
One way, and a very simple one, is to pickle
them. First of all plunge the articles into a boiling
solution of caustic soda or potash for a few
minutes. This removes all the greasy matter
on them. Then place them in a weak pickle
of sulphuric acid, mixing about half a pound
of acid to a gallon of water. Let them remain
in this pickle for about half an hour. This will
loosen the scale. Then rinse the articles, and
immerse them in a strong solution of nitric
acid. Only let them remain in this acid for an
instant and the black oxide will be immediately
removed. After removing the basket from the
nitric acid plunge it into cold water. The articles
can then be coppered, silvered or gilded very
easily, or left bright.

The following appointment has been made
at the Admiralty:—Deputy Inspector-General
William H. Lloyd, M.D., to Hongkong Hospital,
to date December 8th.

THE *Penang Gazette* hears that a marriage will
take place at the end of the present month
between Capt. E. Druth, of the Royal Engineers,
and Miss Weld, daughter of the late Governor
of the Straits Settlements.

THE *Courrier d'Haiphong* hears that M. Jean
Dupuis, the pioneer of French enterprise in
Tonquin, has been able to raise sufficient
capital in Paris to work the coal mines in Kebao,
ceded to him by the French Government.

WE note that the editorship of the *Macao
Independente* has been transferred by Mr. José
da Silva to his son, Mr. Constantino da Silva.
We wish the old paper in its new venture a more
useful career than it can claim to have had as the
defendant of official nepotism and the apologist
for an incompetent and retrograde government.

MR. JNO. LAPRAIK, head of the firm of Messrs.
Douglas, Lapraik & Co., left London for this
port by the P. & O. Co's steamer on December
20th. Mr. J. J. Keswick, of Messrs. Jardine,
Matheson & Co., who is accompanied by Mrs.
Keswick and their two children, left London in
the P. & O. Co's *Coromandel* on the 10th inst.

A NEW steamer, built for the Takasima Colliery
Co. to run between Nagasaki and Hongkong,
has been launched at Lang's Yard, Sunderland.
The *Asagawa* is 308 feet long, 39 feet in breadth,
and moulded depth 26 feet 2 inches. Her
engines will be triple expansion, the cylinders
23, 38, and 62 inches, with a stroke of 42 inches,
which will indicate 1350 horse-power. The
dead-weight carrying capacity of the vessel will
be about 3,600 tons on Lloyd's freeboard.

MRS. SPRIGGINS (to persistent beggar). "A
week ago, Walker, I gave you a good pair of
trousers. Why do you come to me again in the
same old rags?" Walker (with dignity). "The
garment, madam, with which you accommodated
me was some three inches too short; so I have
stored it with a pawnbroker. Poor as I am, I have
not forgotten that a gentleman's attire should be
well-fitting, however worn and threadbare."

THE highest honour of the British Navy has
been attained by Lord John Hay, who finds
himself an Admiral of the Fleet in the vacancy
made by the retirement of the Hon. Sir Charles
Elliott. He is the youngest officer who has ever
reached the rank. When in the spring of next
year the Duke of Edinburgh hands over the
command of the Mediterranean squadron to his
successor, Sir Anthony Hoskins, there is an idea
that his Royal Highness will be gazetted to the
rank of Admiral of the Fleet.

THIS afternoon the Police paraded under the
command of Captain Superintendent Deane,
in the Police Compound, when P.C. 531, Bissen
Singh, and Ex P.C. 559, Khan Singh, were
presented with the Royal Humane Society's
medals. In making the presentation Captain
Deane said:—I have much pleasure in present-
ing you with these medals, sent to you by the
Royal Humane Society of England. These
medals are the only medals given by private
persons that are allowed to be worn by men in
the Army, Navy, or Police, when in uniform. I
need not say any more, as you now have already
been presented with the Bellios' medal, for your
services on a previous occasion. He then
pinned the medals on their breasts, opposite the
Bellios' soup-plates.

IN the House of Commons on the 10th ult., Mr.
E. Beckett asked the Under-Secretary for the
Colonies whether any steps had been taken by
Her Majesty's Government to open negotiations
with the Emperor of China respecting the preven-
tion of Chinese immigration into the Australasian
Colonies, with a view to concluding a treaty which
should meet the legitimate demands of our
colonies on the one hand, and on the other
should secure the subjects of the Emperor of
China from any danger of such unjust and
arbitrary treatment as might tend to disturb the
friendly relations between Great Britain and
China. In reply Sir James Fergusson said that
negotiations with the Government of China on
this subject were being considered in a friendly
and confidential manner, and that the objects
which would satisfy the objects referred to in the
question.

THUS Professor Thomas Davidson in the
Forum—We have seen how the literary educa-
tion which we now consider so essential was
regarded in England as ungentlemanly. It is
not so long since the physician or leech was, as
Hallam says, "an inexhaustible theme of popular
recollection." The barber's pole, so common in
our streets, recalls a time, not so long passed,
when the barber practised bloodletting and other
medical arts. It is within our own
memory that the dentist stood on a level with
the barber; indeed, the two were often the same
person. How is it that all this is changed, that
literature, medicine and dentistry have become
gentlemanly occupations? Simply, I think,
because they are now taught scientifically and
institutions have been established for that
purpose. It may be laid down as a general rule
that whatever is taught in school will soon
become respectable and gentlemanly, while
that which is picked up in the home or the
workshop will always be regarded as menial.

WITH reference to the new loan of 100,000,000
francs which the French Colonial Council has
voted on behalf of Cochinchina, the *Courrier
d'Haiphong* says:—The project may be bridged
into the following details: A loan of 100
millions has been guaranteed by Cochinchina,
and is intended to defray the expenses of the
administration. These 100 millions will be paid
at Paris in five instalments: in 1889, 15 millions;
in 1890, 20 millions; in 1891, 20 millions; in
1892, 20 millions; in 1893, 25 millions. The
annual sum to be paid by Cochinchina for
interest and as a sinking fund will not exceed six
millions, the amortisation to commence in 1893;
up to that date the interest on the sums paid
on account will be deducted from future pay-
ments; the net interest on the contract will not
exceed 5 per cent. after all expenses have been
paid, the remaining portion of the annuity to go
towards the amortisation of the debt. When the
revenue of the Protectorate reaches 40 millions,
the Protectorate will undertake to pay half of the
annuities, and the whole of them when it reaches
60 millions. The *Courrier* strongly insists on the
necessity of the measure being carried out by the
French Chambers. Although Tonquin is
acquiring a proverbial bad reputation for piracy,
cholera, and fever, there are, says our contem-
porary, ample grounds for improvement, provided
sufficient pecuniary means be forthcoming.

THE steamer *Carmarthenshire*, from London
for the Far East, was making water when she
arrived at Suez on December 13th.

IN France and Germany a bankrupt is liable to
be punished by imprisonment if it is found that
his personal expenses have been excessive, if he
has lost large sums of money by gambling or
stock exchange operations, or if he has failed to
keep correct and proper books. The law of
Hongkong is almost identical.

ANOTHER cruiser has been added to the effective
strength of the Royal Navy by the completion
for foreign service of H.M.S. *Champion*, which
has been rearmored and converted into a modern
ship of war in Sheerness Dockyard, at a cost of
nearly thirty thousand pounds, and those who
knew her in Chinese waters would hardly
recognise her now. Her muzzle-loading guns
have been replaced by four six-inch breech-
loading guns, eight five-inch breech-loading
guns, four quick-firing guns, and two torpedo
tubes. She has now been converted into a
thoroughly effective ship.

WITH reference to the telegram in our yester-
day's issue reporting the loss of the British ship
Anglo-Indian, Capt. Roach of the Douglas Co's
steamer *Hailong* courteously informs us that
Ho-how is a small village about 13 miles from
Tamsui. We may add that the statement in
this morning's *Daily Press* that the *Anglo-Indian*
was reported ashore at Ho-how when the
steamer *Hailong* was at Amoy is entirely
without foundation, and could only have been
made for the purpose of publishing our news.
which *Granny*, as customary, lacked the decency
to acknowledge. But 'twas ever thus. The *Daily
Press* must know that the *Hailong* arrived here
nearly three days ago, and that never a whisper
of the wreck of the *Anglo-Indian* was heard in the
colony until after it appeared in our columns.

A GERMAN physician has recently issued a report
of his observations on the effects of petroleum
on the human body. The facts on which his
conclusions are based have been gathered during
extensive travels in the American petroleum
districts. He found that a skin disease was
very prevalent among the workmen who were
employed at the wells, and on closer examination
he concluded that the disease especially
attacked those who were engaged with the
heavier and more inflammable oil. Numerous
cases were discovered of large quanti-
ties of petroleum having been swallowed, with
the result of violent affections of the stomach,
kidneys and nervous system. In one case,
where a glassful of petroleum had been drunk,
the greatest difficulty was experienced in pre-
venting the patient from falling asleep, an
eventuality which is especially fatal in such
instances. Symptoms of poisoning would also
be traced after a lengthened period of inhala-
tion of the vapor, but the symptoms were only notice-
able when the subject was in a bad state of health.

WE would remind owners of race-ponies that the
entries for the Hongkong Jockey Club Meeting
of 1889 close to-morrow before 5 p.m., and must
be addressed to the Clerk of the Course at the
Hongkong Club, with entry money enclosed. In
addition to the events in the published
programme, the entries for the Hack Race close
at the same time. This race, which will be run
on the "Off-Day," is confined to *bond fide* hack
and polo ponies, weight for inches, previous
winners of any race to carry 7lb. ex., to be ridden
by Hongkong residents who never had a winning
mount. In China, distance, one round, and
entrance fee \$5. The Jockey Club will give a
cup to the winner, and the entrance fee will go
to the second. As some inquiries have
been made as to what constitutes a *bond fide*
hack or polo pony, we may state that the
conditions laid down in 1887 stipulate that
the ponies must have been backed in the
colony and the property of members of the
Jockey Club for at least three months previous
to date of entry. This was done to prevent
discarded griffins and race ponies that were not
considered good enough for the open races from
being classed as hacks. Polo ponies are, of
course, ponies that have been regularly used at
polo. Any further information required may be
obtained from the Clerk of the Course.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S private estates are said to
extend over 37,372 acres, the annual rental, even
at the lately depreciated prices, being £20,733.
This does not include Claremont, which in the
year 1866 was granted to the Queen for life, with
the reversion to the country. Some years ago
her Majesty, acting under the advice of Lord
Sydney, purchased the property for the sum of
£78,000, estimated at the time as being a little
over half its market value. It is said to be
worth to-day £150,000. The Queen also
possesses property at Coburg, and the Princess
Hohenlohe left her the Villa Hohenlohe at
Baden, one of the best and most valuable resi-
dences in the place. As to personal property,
there was the bequest of a quarter of a million
left to her Majesty by Sir James Camden Neill.
This will was proved in 1852, and at the com-
pound interest upon which it has been nurtured,
the bequest must now have reached magnificent
proportions. Then there was the property left
by the Prince Consort, estimated to have reached
nearly £600,000, but as this was never proved,
and so escaped probate duty, the exact amount
is not known. These items are over and above
the Queen's annual savings.

An owner of race-ponies desires to know if he
can enter three or more Subscription griffins in
his own name for the events exclusively confined
to that class of pony. So far as we can see
there is nothing in the conditions of these races
to prevent our correspondent from entering a
dozen ponies so long as they are Subscription
griffins of this season; and are otherwise duly
qualified. We assume that the question has
been raised in consequence of a private arrange-
ment entered into by the supporters of the
Subscription griffin movement last Spring, by
which the subscriptions were limited to two for
each subscriber. That arrangement was made
for a special purpose—to prevent millionaire
"leviathans" from subscribing wholesale—and
was never intended to prohibit members of the
Jockey Club from afterwards purchasing what-
ever ponies they thought fit. As a matter of fact
it was a mere informal understanding made
between individual members, and had nothing
whatever to do with the Stewards of the Jockey
Club. The conditions of each race on the pro-
gramme are plainly set out, and so long as the
entries conform to these conditions they will be
in perfect order. As all ponies entered must be
the *bond fide* property of the persons entering
them, to enter in another member's name would
be a clear infraction of Rule 6. We may add
that some time ago we submitted this matter
to the Clerk of the Course—who managed the
whole of the negotiations for the Subscription
griffins—and Mr. Tripp's views are identical
with those above stated.

THE troopship *Tamar*, which left Portsmouth
on the 3rd and Queenstown on the 5th inst.,
brings for Hongkong, Lieut. E. G. Gound, R. E.,
Surgeon G. E. E. of the Medical Staff, and
Capt. G. Paterson and Lieuts. T. A. Scott and
W. Thornburn, of the 91st Regiment.

A DIFFICULT problem is presented to French
women desiring to conform to the fashion of
wearing flowers by the way in which certain
flowers have become attached to political ideas.
For example, the violet is the symbol of the
Bonapartists. Boulanger claims the carnation.
The corn flower is recognized as German, and
the rose has been appropriated by the Orleanists.
The suggestion is made that neutrality can be
indicated only by a bouquet of all the flowers, or
none at all.

SUPREME COURT.
IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.
(Before Chief Justice Russell.)

HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LTD. v. Loxley & Co.
This case was resumed this morning. The
Attorney-General commenced his examination
of the second witness for the plaintiffs,
Mr. Roberts, who said:—I am manager of the
Hongkong Hotel, and arrived here in February
1887. Mr. McCulloch was then Chairman. I
was not consulted about the staff, but I know
the directors thought of getting barmaids. I
remember that about the 7th March I was told
by Mr. McCulloch to mention to Mr. Saunders,
manager of the House of Commons bar, when
writing, that the Directors thought of getting
barmaids out, and ask him to describe the
necessary qualifications, &c., to Mr. Sayle. As
near as I can remember I told him what their
duties would be. I did not by any means
desire him to procure such girls, or say that
we wanted them at once, but I said Miss Kirby
was leaving, and he would naturally
suppose that they would be wanted soon. Two
or three weeks afterwards I wrote again, this
time without being requested, to the same effect.
In May some time Mr. McCulloch showed me a
letter from Sayle saying that he noted the order
for barmaids and saying he would send them.
I told him that I did not think that a positive order
had been given, and that barmaids were trouble-
some and hard to keep in order.

By Mr. Francis:—When I first heard about
barmaids I was told that the directors intended
to get barmaids out. I told Mr. Saunders in the
first letter that Mr. Sayle would see him on the
subject.

By the Court:—I have no memo. of what I
wrote. I recollect writing "These are the class
of girls we require—I suppose we shall have to
have them, but they are a d—d nuisance" (laughing).

The Attorney-General then put in the evidence
taken on commission.
This evidence, taken before Mr. Hornell, bar-
rister, in July last, was to the following effect:—
Mr. B. B. D. Sayle deposed that he was the
plaintiffs' agent, and that he got a letter (already
given) from Mr. McCulloch on March 7th, in
pursuance of which he saw Mr. Saunders. He
wrote the letter of the 15th April, stating that he
was engaging the barmaids, and got a reply
dated May 10th from Mr. Roberts. The two
barmaids left for Hongkong on the 28th June,
and he wired accordingly next day. Up to then
he had received no communication from any-
one letting him know he had made a mistake.
If he had he might have rectified it in time.
Cross-examined:—He would have stopped them
if Mr. McCulloch had written, but not on Mr.
Roberts' letter. He wrote again on the 1st July,
regretting that he should have misread the letter
of the 7th March, but saying that he still read
the letter as authority to engage two barmaids,
the terms, &c., being given. He pointed out
that he wrote on the 15th March, and the letter
should have been received by the middle of May,
and asked why Mr. McCulloch did not at once
wire him so that he could have broken the
agreements. He hoped that the Company would
see their way to keeping the girls, at least for a
time, as they could be employed in capacities
other than that of barmaid—book-keeper, store-
keeper, &c. In conclusion he said he had been
afraid he was too dilatory, adding in a note
that he was looking up samples of cheap
clothes, as requested, and concluding that
he did not think he had made a mistake.
He was not sure that he did not get Mr. Roberts'
letter several days before the 27th June.

Evidence was given that the mail in which
Mr. Roberts' letter was sent was not distributed
until the 28th June.
Mr. Saunders stated that he received a letter
in April, 1887 from Mr. Roberts. It was lost or
destroyed. He recollected that in Mr. Roberts'
saw barmaids were a d—d nuisance, but he
supposed he must put up with them. Witness
saw Mr. Sayle afterwards and showed him the
letter, and afterwards sent a barmaid to him for
examining. He did not remember Mr. Roberts
adding that they would try and get on without
them for a month or two. He said he wanted
them rather to look after the cash than to serve.
Mr. Francis said:—I venture to submit that
there is no case put forward by the plaintiff to
reply to. If they have succeeded in establishing
anything I think it is the defendant's case.

His Lordship:—That is for the jury to decide.
Mr. Francis:—There is absolutely no case to
reply to.

His Lordship:—It rests entirely with you
whether you reply or not. If you think there is
a case, say so.
Mr. Francis:—The question is—Is there any
case?
His Lordship:—Yes, certainly.
Mr. Francis:—Then I will call Mr. Loxley,
without going on with any remarks.
Mr. Loxley said:—I am a partner in the firm
of W. R. Loxley & Co., with Mr. Sayle, who
resides in London. Our firm was appointed
London agents for the plaintiffs in 1887, but had
previously transacted business for them. All
business was done direct with London, and did
not pass through my hands at all, except in
telegrams, when I put it into cypher. I recollect
having a conversation with Mr. McCulloch
shortly after Mr. Roberts' arrival. He either
said he had written, or was about to write, to
Mr. Sayle to get two barmaids.

The Attorney-General objected to this evidence
as irrelevant. The issue depended on the con-
struction of the letter, and not on what Mr.
McCulloch thought.
Mr. Francis pointed out that the plaintiffs,
in their pleading, disclaimed any intention to engage
the girls.
His Lordship overruled the objection.
Witness continued:—I told him I did not
think Mr. Sayle would care to do so, as he had
a lot of trouble about the girls. He got for the
Jockey Hotel. He replied that Mr. Sayle
would have very little trouble, as Mr. Sayle
would only have to sign the agreement. In
May I met him again and asked him if he had
heard anything from Sayle. He said he had, and
that he had got two girls, whom they did not
want. I said "why don't you telegraph and
stop them?" and he replied that it was too late.
He said nothing about my having to take charge
of the girls, as the Company would have nothing
to do with them.

By the Attorney-General:—I had had no
previous conversation with him, except on the
occasion mentioned. He said nothing about the
girls having been engaged by mistake until the
27th June. I did not telegraph on my own
account, as he had told me it was too late. That
concluding the evidence.

Mr. Francis was then proceeding to address the
Court on behalf of the defence, when.

The Attorney-General asked if the construc-
tion of the letter would be a matter for his Lord-
ship or for the jury to adjudicate upon?

His Lordship ruled that it was for the jury, as
the whole case turned upon the interpretation of
the letters, and that was what the jury had been
summoned for.

Mr. Francis then continued his address. He
said the question in dispute was whether the
letter of the 7th March was sufficient authority on
which to engage the two barmaids, supplemented
as it was by Mr. Roberts' letter to Mr.
Saunders. Did Mr. McCulloch make sufficient
communication to Mr. Loxley afterwards as to
amount to a withdrawal, or was his silence a
ratification of the interpretation of the order?
Those were the questions. In the first place it
was absolutely clear that when the defendants'
firm were appointed plaintiffs' London agents a
certain course of business was carried out—
all communications being sent direct to London,
independently of Mr. Loxley here who, had
nothing to do with them except to occasionally
put messages from the directors to Mr. Sayle
into cypher. Mr. Sayle was therefore the
sole responsible party, and what he did
and wrote was what they had to do with. In
the letter appointing his firm agents he was
told to do any general business, forward the
interests of the hotel, and advise them from time
to time, so that evidently he was something
more than a mere agent, to execute express
orders, and had a certain amount of discretion
allowed. The plaintiffs' principal contention
was that the letter of the 7th March was not,
and ought not to have been under-
stood by him as being an order to send out
barmaids, and indirectly an attempt was made
to compare that order with the order which
was sent out for the engagement of Mr.
Roberts as manager. In the latter case Mr.
Kerfoot Hughes, the Chairman of the
directors, wrote expressly authorising his engage-
ment, and they put that letter against the
letter in question. But the jury would note the
difference in the way the two things were
managed. Mr. Sayle was simply told to assist
in getting a manager, making inquiries, and
reporting, &c. It was clear from that letter that
the directors were capable of expressing them-
selves clearly when they intended him not to
act, but in this case there was not a single
phrase that could be compared with the phrases
used by Mr. Kerfoot Hughes. He submitted
that the letter of the 7th March was in itself,
to any commercial mind, a sufficient authori-
ty, all circumstances being considered, to
justify Mr. Sayle in doing what he honestly
thought to be the best thing in the interests
of the Company. His attention had been already
called, in Mr. Hughes' letter some months before,
to the fact that Miss Kirby would probably leave
shortly and another barmaid would be required.
The letter in March said "Now barmaids. Miss
Kirby leaves in June for home early in May, and
the present idea is to get two good serviceable girls
for the bar and kitchen." As his Lordship
had pointed out, up to then no intimation had
been given to Mr. Sayle that there was any
intention on the part of the Company to dispense
with barmaids, and the only notification he got
was that more would be wanted after she left.
He saw she was leaving early in May, and
that they had the idea of getting two more girls
out. The words "present idea" left no doubt as
to whether they were going to have any more—
rather that they were going to have two instead of
one. The letter set forth every conceivable item
of information which could be needed in drawing
up an agreement for the nature of their ser-
vices to the accommodation they were to get. The
question of how they were to be sent out was
one simply between them and the agent, and not
for the company, and they saw that at the
same time Mr. Roberts was instructed to
write to Mr. Saunders—not describing the
kind of girls, he knew that already—but
leaving him to recommend any. Both Mr.
Saunders and Mr. Sayle were told of each other's
action in the matter. Now if the March letter
was not in itself a clear and express authority
—which he admitted it was not—to engage girls,
he asked what any of the jurors would do if they,
London, acting as agents for the Company,
were to have done what they found, on commu-
nicating with Mr. Saunders, that he proposed to
write and recommend girls for engagement
without showing Mr. Roberts' letter, and
leaving them (the supposititious agents) to
judge of its contents from his acts? Would
they have dreamt for a moment that the
directors were hesitating about engaging any
more girls—was there anything to indicate that
they were to wait for further instructions? No,
they evidently wanted the girls at once. Mr.
Sayle, therefore, tried to get them, as he wrote,
as quickly as possible. If Mr. Saunders, as a
third agent, misread or misrepresented his
instructions, the Company must abide by that.
Then they must take into consideration the
plaintiffs' delay in communicating
with Mr. Sayle when they found he was
engaging the girls; they deliberately left
him in the false belief that that first letter
was an order, when they had yet time to correct
the mistake easily and quickly. That was a very
material fact for consideration. But was it at
all certain that on the 15th May they had
definitely decided not to get any more girls?
Mr. Roberts wrote to Mr. Sayle, pointing out
his mistake on that day, but it was really and
sincerely intended to do without barmaids.
If it was, as business men, they should have
telegraphed at once. As it was their letter
reached Mr. Sayle eight days after the girls'
engagement. The action was not for negligence,
in not then endeavoring to cancel the agreement,
so that even if it had been delivered a week
earlier it would not affect the issue. He submitted
that there was no reasonable doubt that Mr.
Sayle was justified in acting as he did. After
paying a passing tribute to what he called the
"force of character" of Mr. McCulloch, to whom
he attributed the initial misunderstanding, he
said that gentleman's failure to telegraph was a
complete and total failure. Mr. Sayle's
notification that he had engaged girls was
the "force of character" of Mr. McCulloch.

The Attorney-General objected to this evidence
as irrelevant. The issue depended on the con-
struction of the letter, and not on what Mr.
McCulloch thought.

Mr. Francis pointed out that the plaintiffs,
in their pleading, disclaimed any intention to engage
the girls.
His Lordship overruled the objection.
Witness continued:—I told him I did not
think Mr. Sayle would care to do so, as he had
a lot of trouble about the girls. He got for the
Jockey Hotel. He replied that Mr. Sayle
would have very little trouble, as Mr. Sayle
would only have to sign the agreement. In
May I met him again and asked him if he had
heard anything from Sayle. He said he had, and
that he had got two girls, whom they did not
want. I said "why don't you telegraph and
stop them?" and he replied that it was too late.
He said nothing about my having to take charge
of the girls, as the Company would have nothing
to do with them.

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The Attorney-General contended that rubbish
like that should not be imported into a serious
business transaction—if they reached the
whole correspondence of private people there
would be an end to all business safety. They must
begin with the letter of March 7th. He submitted
that was not authority, and could not be construed
as being one, to forthwith engage the girls.
He then explained that Mr. McCulloch did not
telegraph in reply to Mr. Sayle's letter because
he said, very reasonably, "either he has sent
them already, and it is too late, or he has
re-read and understood my letters, and I need
not." If anyone in Hongkong was to blame it
was Mr. Loxley, for not cabling. He knew that
his brother had had trouble with barmaids for
Mr. Donabie before. When he heard that his
partner and Mr. McCulloch were at loggerheads
it was his duty to put Mr. Sayle right. His
argument was first that the March letter was
not authority, second that Mr. McCulloch's action
in writing his correction, instead of taking the
extreme and unreasonable measure of tele-
graphing, was not a ratification of the authority,
and third that it had not estopped their right to
recover damages

In answer to the Court he described on a paper (B) with a line drawn from wharf to wharf the position of the *Meanees* and his course as far as her stern and he then volunteered a statement that the *Meanees* anchorage had been recently changed more to the eastward. The look-out man was then called and in examination in chief corroborated the statement in the petition and to some extent the evidence of the last witness but in cross-examination he stated that the *Morning Star* passed the *Meanees* stern about 20 fathoms off, a much greater distance than that stated by the last witness, and he also stated that "just as our head went to starboard a bit (after passing the *Meanees*) and at the time he saw the *Pioneer*, we starboarded first before we saw her" no doubt meaning "our head went to starboard before we saw her." He also stated that when in collision the *Morning Star*'s head was pointed toward Whitefield Station and the *Pioneer*'s towards the Naval Yard. The engineer gave evidence as to reversing the engines of the *Morning Star* and the pursuer who was standing by the steersman when the *Morning Star* passed the *Meanees* stated that he did not see the *Pioneer* until about 10 yards past the *Meanees* stern and then her lights were about straight ahead and added he could not see them before as they were at the back of the *Meanees* and in answer to the Court he replied that the *Meanees*' anchorage had not been changed. If the plaintiff's evidence stood alone it would be impossible to come to any satisfactory conclusion. The evidence of the first witness was prevaricating and capped voluntarily by an unnecessary falsehood as to the change of anchorage of the *Meanees*. But assuming the plaintiff's evidence to be taken as to the cause of the *Morning Star* coming up to the stern of the *Meanees* and having regard to the position of the two wharves and the *Meanees* it is impossible to conceive that the *Pioneer*, when first seen or when she ought to have been first seen was either on the port side of the *Morning Star* or directly ahead. Moreover, if the course of the *Morning Star* was as shown on the exhibit B there is no reason why those on board the *Morning Star* should not have seen the lights of the *Pioneer* before they did, or on the other hand the *Pioneer* must necessarily have been considerably on their starboard bow, if she was hidden by the *Meanees*. The position of the vessels in collision as sworn to by two witnesses also tends to show that the *Pioneer* not only deliberately came out of her course on a starboard helm but that she must have also ported before the collision actually occurred. The more probable story appears to me to be that in "rounding" the stern of the *Meanees*, an expression to be found in the plaintiff's petition, she was under a port helm, and thus brought the *Pioneer* on her port bow. Although in their petition the plaintiffs allege there were several passengers on board the *Morning Star* at the time of the collision not one was called to give evidence. On the other hand on behalf of the defendant Company, the look-out man on the *Pioneer* gave evidence that when he first saw the *Morning Star*, she was a little off the *Meanees* straight ahead from them but he added he could only see her green light and that his vessel was then steering a little to the east of Pedder's wharf so as to pass the stern of the *Meanees*. When he saw the *Morning Star* circling round they changed their course to the eastward when she was about 150 cubic feet off or somewhere about 50 to 60 yards. In cross-examination he swears that he never saw the red light of the *Morning Star* until the *Pioneer* had changed her course. The steersman of the *Pioneer* also deposed that when he first saw the *Morning Star* he was steering to pass the stern of the *Meanees* a little to the east of Pedder's wharf and the *Pioneer* then was on the Hongkong side of "the *Meanees*", a little to the west of their starboard bow, and that he could only see her green and white lights; that there was plenty of room to pass, and that he only saw her red light as she came up into collision and then he starboarded; he also said the *Morning Star* began to circle round after passing the chequered buoy about 300 Chinese ft. off, and he saw her begin to port at that distance. Mr. Humphreys, a passenger on the *Morning Star*, said he first saw the *Morning Star*, some little time before the collision considerably to the west of the *Pioneer*. He did not notice her lights but he could see her hull fairly "and as we neared she seemed abruptly to turn right down upon us, and to me it seemed awful. I was quite astonished; I was alarmed. It was when she was some 100 yards away. In cross-examination he said that there was a wide margin between the two vessels. Mr. Scott, another passenger, also gave evidence, but as he did not see the *Morning Star* until she was coming, as he says, direct at them about 50 yards away, his evidence is not very important, but so far as it goes it corroborates the other evidence for the defence. Mr. Woolley, also a passenger, deposes that when he first saw the *Morning Star* she was on their starboard bow and he saw the green and white lights and the vessels seemed to be going to pass green light to green and he said she came completely round and he saw her lights for a moment before the collision. He also said when the *Morning Star* was first seen by him the *Pioneer* was steering straight for Pedder's Wharf. Having regard to the nature and class of evidence given on behalf of the defendant Co. and to the unsatisfactory evidence on the plaintiff's behalf I can only come to one conclusion upon the facts, namely, that when the *Pioneer* and *Morning Star* first sighted each other they were green light to green and that if each had kept their course no collision could have resulted, and looking at the evidence of the independent witnesses on the defendant's behalf what has been brought about the collision was the act of the steersman of the *Morning Star* in abruptly porting at whatever exact distance it may have been that the *Pioneer* was off. However it is clear to my mind that it was at so short a distance off that it at once rendered a collision imminent. It is almost unnecessary to state that the rule of the road (Art. 15) as to porting when vessels are meeting end-on or nearly end-on does not apply by night to cases where the green light of one vessel is opposed to the green light of the other, as was the case here. Nor does Art. 18, on which Mr. Caldwell relied, "if necessary" at the end of 6th Article appears peculiarly applicable to the present case. No doubt the *Pioneer*'s steersman would have seen the *Morning Star*, circling some distance off, but being, until shortly before the collision, green light to green, he was entitled to assume she would maintain that position until he saw her red light, or as Mr. Humphreys put it, until she turned abruptly in such a way as to cause him alarm and he could not reasonably have apprehended danger before; when he saw a collision imminent he did what he could in the agony of the collision (see the *Byzantium* case, 1 B. D. 219) to avert the impending blow by throwing off to starboard his head to port. With regard to the case of *Radley* and *L. & N. W. Ry. Co.* (App. Ca. 754) and the doctrine of contributory negligence referred to by Mr. Caldwell, it was no doubt said in that case that though the plaintiff may have been guilty of contributory negligence and although that negligence may in fact have contributed to the accident, yet if the defendant could in the result by exercise of ordinary care and diligence have avoided the mischief which happened, the plaintiff's negligence will not excuse him, the defendant. The result of the case was

many others, beginning with the well-known "Donkey" case in which perhaps some confusion has arisen from the language used rather than in principle, is summed up in *Marsden's Law of Collisions at Sea*, p. 23; but I think it sufficient to state here that I do not agree with the view urged by Mr. Caldwell, on the ground that I have come to the conclusion that only by extraordinary skill and foresight could those on board the *Pioneer* have anticipated the extraordinary and unaccountable conduct of those in charge of the *Morning Star*. The case of the *Pioneer* and *Khadon*, also referred to by Mr. Caldwell, the facts were somewhat similar to those in the present case, that is to say both vessels were travelling on parallel courses, green light to green light, but the *Vorwarts* in that case suddenly showed the red light half to three-quarters mile off, whilst in the present case the *Morning Star* did not show her red light until almost immediately preceding the collision. Suit dismissed, with costs.

THE AUSTIN ARMS HOTEL, AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

A general meeting of the shareholders of the above Company was held this afternoon at the Offices, 22, Queen's Road Central. There were present: Messrs. J. D. Humphreys, (Chairman), E. L. Woodin, E. L. Reuter, (Directors), J. Andrew (Secretary), and the following shareholders: Messrs. S. J. Gower, J. Hancock, Capt. Burnie, J. Orange, C. Ozorio, J. da Rosa, J. W. Noble, F. Hatherly, A. J. May, R. K. Leigh, J. Willmott, W. E. L. Clement, W. D. Braidwood, B. Buschmann, W. G. Humphreys, R. Fuhrmann, and C. Peermann. Mr. F. H. O. Wills attended as Solicitor for the Company. The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman said: "Gentlemen, this meeting is convened in accordance with the Companies Ordinance No. 1 of 1877, and we have therefore no formal report to make or statement of accounts to render; but as much misapprehension appears to exist in reference to our venture, I will endeavour to put before you a short statement of the real facts attending the formation of the Company as far as we are concerned. First, as to its promoters. Only one of the Directors, namely, Mr. Reuter, was a promoter, and made a profit by the sale of his share of the Austin Arms property to the Company. The other Directors and myself have simply taken shares on the same footing as the rest of the shareholders, and have had no other advantage of any kind whatever. When I joined the Board, Mr. Findlay Smith's name was down on the list of Directors, he having consented to be one of the Board, but he retired shortly afterwards. The Peak Hotel will not interfere with us. We propose to construct a comfortable family hotel after the style of such places at home, consisting of bed and bathrooms on the first and second floors, and public and private dining and drawing rooms, smoking and reading rooms on the ground floor; with all the offices and conveniences one is accustomed to find in England in hotels of this class. We did not propose to interfere with any existing business in this Colony in any way whatever, but to the best of our ability to bring within the reach of every resident on the lower levels who wanted a change, an opportunity of getting it in a quiet family hotel of the good old sort, without being forced to go out of the Colony for it. The Hotel will no doubt be a convenience to residents at the neighbouring Ports and will induce many to visit this colony who would not otherwise do so. Next, as to the price paid for the two properties. It is generally supposed that this was excessive, and in point of fact, a long way beyond their real value. No doubt the vendors made a very good thing for themselves by the sale, but did we pay more than the land was worth to us, or more than its market value at the time? I think not. The upset price of Crown land in the vicinity is 20 cents a foot; Peak sites as a rule do not, I am informed by the Architects, yield on the average more than one foot in four of level land suitable for building purposes, and to get this involves an expenditure of not less than five cents a foot. This would make the average cost at the Peak at this moment of level building ground available for use not less than 85 cents a foot. Messrs. Danby and Leigh inform me, that upon these lots respectively we have the following areas available for building purposes. On the Austin Arms Estate 71,046 square feet at 85 cents a foot, \$60,389.10. This cost us \$50,000; the leveling will cost \$5,400, leaving us a margin of \$4,989.10. The Orange Estate property contains a net area of building land already made for us of 60,117 square feet at 85 cents a foot, \$51,749.45; it cost us \$50,000, leaving a margin in our favour of \$1,749.45. I may further state for your information that we purchased two lots of Crown land extending from the Austin Arms lot to Umbrella Seat at Public Auction at an average price of 32 cents a foot and have obtained an extension from the yard to improve the road frontage and the property generally. These purchases give us the whole of the frontage from the Gap Police Station to Umbrella Seat and a site admirably adapted in every way for our purpose. We propose, after the work of laying out the ground is completed, to build up to the full limit our building area as soon as practicable. The work is being proceeded with as rapidly as possible. As soon as we can do so at a fair profit, we intend to realize on the Terrace property and confine our entire capital and energies to the development of the Austin Arms. I think that is all I need say, unless any shareholder has any questions to ask. Mr. May asked whether the vacancy that occurred in the Board of Directors should be filled up. The Chairman—Not necessarily, but I shall be pleased to hear of any proposition to that effect. Mr. May said he would propose Mr. Hancock as a Director. Mr. Hatherly seconded. The Chairman remarked that he had just been informed by the Company's Solicitor that as this was only a formal meeting, they could not do any business appertaining to the ordinary routine of yearly meetings. After reading a Sub-section of the Articles of Association referring to the appointment of Directors he said the wishes of the shareholders would always have the Directors' best attention, but in the present instance, he was advised to decline entertaining any proposal. Mr. May then withdrew his motion. The Chairman, continuing, said he wished some one would put a question concerning the manner in which the Company's shares had been allotted. Rumours were prevalent outside that some irregularly had taken place in the distribution of the shares applied for. He was, moreover, in a position to state that the allotment had been perfectly regular. The number of shares that were to be applied for had been declared in the Statement published at the time. The application was not legally binding; the greater number was taken by the Directors and their friends; and the balance by the public. The Directors' object in making this declaration was to put an end to the disquieting rumours which were in circulation, and to afford the Company a start on a fair footing. (Applause.) There being no other business to transact the meeting terminated.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the members of the above Association was held at the Hongkong Hotel yesterday afternoon. The President, Mr. T. Jackson, presided, and there was a good attendance. The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, alluded to the departure of the 8th Regiment, of whom they numbered so many amongst their members and spoke of the assistance given at all times by the officers of that Regiment to the Association. Their thanks were also due to the naval officers on station. Before putting the adoption of the report and accounts to the meeting he should be pleased to hear any remark any member might wish to make. Mr. Kennedy said that he noticed that the auditors of the accounts were three members of the Committee. He thought the accounts should be audited by some member not on the Committee. He was perfectly sure that there were many members in the Association who were perfectly competent to audit accounts of that nature. Mr. Woolley—As one of the auditors may I ask if any reflection is intended to be cast on the Committee? Mr. Kennedy—Distinctly not, but I never heard of any concern where the directors audited their own accounts. Mr. Woolley—This is not a public company. I was for two years secretary of this Association myself, and I know the vast amount of work which is necessary to keep the thing going. Mr. Andrew said there were constantly sums to be paid, and it was only possible for the Committee to understand the accounts. If they appointed an auditor he would have to accept the vouchers given him and would be unable to know whether they were correct or not. Mr. Kennedy said he presumed that the Secretary of the Association had to submit his proposals of expenditure to the Committee before making disbursements. Mr. Forbes thought that the question was unnecessarily taking up the time of the meeting. He asked what Mr. Kennedy expected to gain by having an outsider auditing the accounts? It was purely a formal affair; every member of the Association was satisfied that the accounts had been properly audited, and it was only taking up time, in his opinion, to discuss the question further. (Applause.) General Gordon said he would like to say a word while on this question. When he was Chairman of Committee this question was raised and he advocated the appointing of a member not on the Committee to audit the accounts. His first reason was because he thought that those who were responsible for the expenditure should not audit the accounts; and the second reason was that at the last spring meeting there were one or two objections made by members who stated that they had not got prizes of the value announced. This was a very painful statement, but such complaint was made to the Committee. It was not necessary now to enter into details as to how the matter was settled, but he felt then and regretted it strongly to the Committee that the accounts should be audited by an outsider. The meeting was postponed and no decision was arrived at when he left the Committee. He was urged to resign because a gentleman who had acted as treasurer for two or three months had also acted as auditor. He was not casting the slightest reflection on his friend, Mr. Andrew, but he did not think it was quite correct that a man who acted as treasurer should audit the accounts. (Applause.) He hoped and trusted that the meeting would agree with him in his view of the matter that a member outside the Committee should be appointed as auditor. Mr. Legge said he had been secretary to the R. gatta Club and Treasurer to Victoria Lodge, and in both institutions the accounts had always been audited by other members. (Applause.) Mr. Francis said that as the opinion of the meeting was evidently in favour of what Mr. Kennedy had said, he presumed the Committee understood that in future they must appoint an outsider as an auditor. Mr. Hooper said he thought the names of the Committee were well enough known to prove that everything would be done fairly and above board. (Applause.) With reference to what General Gordon had said about one of the auditors acting as treasurer, he begged to say he was responsible for those accounts and that they bore his name and not Mr. Andrew's. Mr. Robinson agreed with the last speaker. This was not a commercial society. In a society of this sort if they gave unnecessary trouble to those who took office they would find difficulty in obtaining anyone to serve. If it was the opinion of the meeting that the members of the Committee were incompetent to audit the accounts then they should not re-elect them. The Chairman said there was a right and a wrong way of doing everything. He was certain that those who had audited the accounts were perfectly competent to do so, but he was of opinion that it would be better that the Committee should nominate two other members to do it in future, provided that two men were available who had the necessary qualifications. If no one had any further remarks to make he would move the adoption of the report and accounts. Mr. Woodin seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously. The Chairman and the next business was to elect a Committee, which he thought had better be done by ballot. There was no specified number of members to form the Committee, but on the last occasion they had selected thirteen including the Chairman, and he thought they had better follow that precedent. Some of the members of the present Committee had left the colony, and as he himself was leaving shortly he might add that he was not seeking re-election. It would be advisable to have some of the officers of the new Regiment on the Committee, but as none of them had yet joined the Association they could not be elected. However, it was at all times open to them to add to the Committee and if any officers joined they could be elected afterwards. The balloting then took place with the result that the following gentlemen were elected: Messrs. E. L. Woodin, J. Andrew, A. Woolley, H. J. Holmes, Major Dempster, Captain Collinson, A. S. Hooper, E. Robinson, Major Tripp, J. W. Noble, General Gordon, A. K. Travers, and Colonel Storer. The Chairman—We have now to consider the revision of the rules. Mr. Cross—Is this in order? We have had no time to consider this matter. It has been sprung upon us. Should not notice be given us of the proposed alterations? The Chairman—There is nothing in the rules about the revision. Mr. Cross—Then I suggest that seven days' notice be given. The Chairman said the meeting was all-powerful. If it agreed that seven days' notice was to be given he should rule accordingly, if not he should proceed with the revision. Mr. Francis suggested that the proposed alterations in the rules be put before the meeting, and they could then be a position to see whether it was necessary to postpone the consideration or whether they might proceed with the revision at once. Mr. Hooper said the first alteration consisted simply in striking out the word "General" before "Committee". In Rule 3, Rule 4 was altered to read as follows:—That the Committee appoint their own Chairman and Vice-Chairman and have power to add to their number, to fill up vacancies and appoint sub-committees with power to act, the treasurer and secretary to be members *ex-officio*, three to form a quorum. The Chairman for the meeting to have a casting vote." The next alteration proposed was in Rule 12 with regard to the admission of ladies members. This rule as revised would read:—Ladies who are residents in Hongkong and over 16 years of age are eligible for election in the same way as are described in Rule 6. Their subscription shall be one dollar per annum. The amendment with regard to age had been suggested because it had been found that there were lady members under the age of twelve months. Laughing. Mr. Andrew said he had to propose an addition to the rules. It was not proposed out of any disrespect to the Army or the Police, but the Association was growing to be very large, and as the Police and Military had their own ranges he thought it only right to bring it forward. It was "No member of the Army or Navy shall be eligible for election who holds lower rank than a commissioned officer, and no police constable, under the rank of an Inspector." Mr. Cross proposed that these resolutions be printed and forwarded to members and another meeting called. The Chairman thought the sense of the meeting should be taken, should they proceed with the revision now? The question having been put to the meeting was answered in the affirmative by a majority of four. The alterations to Rules 3, 4, and 12 were carried unanimously. Mr. Hooper said that he, perhaps, should mention the new rule proposed did not affect in any way those who were already members of the Association. Mr. Robinson thought the new rule needed discussion and that as it was now too late to go into it it might as well be postponed. General Gordon was of the same opinion. The question of accepting this new rule was a very important one. (Hear, hear.) A great number of the 8th and a great many of the Police had been members and had helped substantially. He thought they should consider the question well before deciding on it. There was no doubt that the soldiers and police were trained to shoot and got much more practice than many of the other members, but on the other hand it appeared just a little harsh to bar them from becoming members. Mr. Francis proposed the postponement of the consideration of the question for a fortnight. Mr. Woodin seconded, and the motion was carried. This concluded the business of the meeting. Mr. Francis said he was sure that those present would fully agree with him when he suggested, that a very hearty vote of thanks should be passed to their President, Mr. Jackson, who was about to leave the colony, for the assistance he had given them. He did not know where they would have found a Chairman who would have helped them as he had done and who could bring to bear on every question such strong and good sense and so excellent a discretion. (Applause.) They had seen that evening, if they had never seen it before, of what value such a Chairman was, and he asked them to give him a hearty vote of thanks for having acted so long and effectively as president. The vote of thanks was carried amidst great applause, and the Chairman having returned thanks the meeting terminated.

to act, the treasurer and secretary to be members *ex-officio*, three to form a quorum. The Chairman for the meeting to have a casting vote." The next alteration proposed was in Rule 12 with regard to the admission of ladies members. This rule as revised would read:—Ladies who are residents in Hongkong and over 16 years of age are eligible for election in the same way as are described in Rule 6. Their subscription shall be one dollar per annum. The amendment with regard to age had been suggested because it had been found that there were lady members under the age of twelve months. Laughing. Mr. Andrew said he had to propose an addition to the rules. It was not proposed out of any disrespect to the Army or the Police, but the Association was growing to be very large, and as the Police and Military had their own ranges he thought it only right to bring it forward. It was "No member of the Army or Navy shall be eligible for election who holds lower rank than a commissioned officer, and no police constable, under the rank of an Inspector." Mr. Cross proposed that these resolutions be printed and forwarded to members and another meeting called. The Chairman thought the sense of the meeting should be taken, should they proceed with the revision now? The question having been put to the meeting was answered in the affirmative by a majority of four. The alterations to Rules 3, 4, and 12 were carried unanimously. Mr. Hooper said that he, perhaps, should mention the new rule proposed did not affect in any way those who were already members of the Association. Mr. Robinson thought the new rule needed discussion and that as it was now too late to go into it it might as well be postponed. General Gordon was of the same opinion. The question of accepting this new rule was a very important one. (Hear, hear.) A great number of the 8th and a great many of the Police had been members and had helped substantially. He thought they should consider the question well before deciding on it. There was no doubt that the soldiers and police were trained to shoot and got much more practice than many of the other members, but on the other hand it appeared just a little harsh to bar them from becoming members. Mr. Francis proposed the postponement of the consideration of the question for a fortnight. Mr. Woodin seconded, and the motion was carried. This concluded the business of the meeting. Mr. Francis said he was sure that those present would fully agree with him when he suggested, that a very hearty vote of thanks should be passed to their President, Mr. Jackson, who was about to leave the colony, for the assistance he had given them. He did not know where they would have found a Chairman who would have helped them as he had done and who could bring to bear on every question such strong and good sense and so excellent a discretion. (Applause.) They had seen that evening, if they had never seen it before, of what value such a Chairman was, and he asked them to give him a hearty vote of thanks for having acted so long and effectively as president. The vote of thanks was carried amidst great applause, and the Chairman having returned thanks the meeting terminated.

THE DYING FETTER.

The old, decaying "shores" of Monarchy are stooping to their fall. Every day the great machine, which for ages and ages has ground out human misery with every revolution of its jarring wheels shows new signs of the decrepitude which accompanies unhonoured age, and every day the cataclysm comes nearer. All Europe and two-thirds of Asia are filled with the whispers of a stupendous upheaval which is to break out—somewhere, and in which armed millions are to tear each other to pieces for some undivided power which never takes visible form; and every-where a shapeless terror hangs over the old World and portends the approaching breakdown of the hoary tyrannies which mark the present century to the era of the Goghs and Magis. Long years of ceaseless aggression have brought Europe back to the point from which she started twenty centuries ago; art, science, Christianity, civilization, have added a polish to the barbarism of older days, but the system of Government has undergone no material change; now, as in the distant past, every man is a soldier, and all Europe is a camp, and public policy is summed up in the sentence, "Let us kill somebody," and the world is growing weary of this dismal era of bloodshed and intrigue. The tired old figureheads of monarchy, which never, since monarchy was first invented, served any one useful purpose in the scheme of nature still refuse to recognise that a new era is dawning on mankind, and that the time is approaching when the many will refuse to be butchered for the amusement of the few; but princes are more obtuse than common men and the deluge always comes upon them unawares. A few months ago a great potentate was prematurely removed from this mundane sphere when well on towards his hundredth birthday. For many years the eyes of Europe had been fixed upon him as he sat on his throne gorged almost to the top of his head with a soup of barbarous construction, in which red herrings, sour wine and ancient cabbage soaked in vinegar were prominent features. Apart from his crown this commonplace old cast-iron drillmaster was nobody in particular. He was always hungry and always anxious for something to eat. Practically he swayed the destinies of the world, but the destinies of the world trouble him little in his last years; the fate of nations was his hands but a caseless stomach-ache harassed him, and so the overfed old man drifted on as a living example of the meanness and littleness of kings. Then he died, and half the world was stricken with panic, because a race of fools had entrusted to this gluttonous patriarch the power of drenching the earth with blood, and spreading ruin and desolation and death and bankruptcy over all the lands between the German Ocean and Kamtschatka, and the clay god having eaten himself to death, all was a blank. And now the eyes of Europe are turned on a young prince with a distorted frame and masses of cotton wool in his ears, on whose head the crown of the Hohenzollerns has devolved, and whose single intellect must decide whether the results of centuries of material progress are or are not to be undone. Further East a drunken and ignorant Czar sits uneasily on a seething mass of disinfection and prays the only prayer which now passes the lips of a Romanoff—that things may last his time. His father offered up the same prayer before him and offered it up as he does, on the points of four million bayonets. In his case the petition was answered. He went forth one day to show himself to his loving subjects, and an hour later an almost unrecognisable mass of crowned cats-meat was brought back in a carriage, and the world knew that Alexander had been taken from the wrath to come. His predecessor, Nicholas, died a natural death—of rage and liquor and, it is more than whispered, of poison, and so he also escaped the deluge; but few of the Czar's come to so peaceful an ending. These memories of the past are fast driving Alexander III. into insanity. He has already become a dreary hypochondriac who sees visions and dreams of phantoms and starts from shapeless terrors; and, in his distraction, he masses great armies and conducts incoherent manoeuvres and dictates inebricated protocols, and is steadily drinking and drivelling Europe into a war, of which no one can see the end. And meanwhile, throughout his empire, the clank of fetters is in the air, and the cries of thousands of tortured prisoners as they eat their lives out in noisome dungeons, go up to heaven, and all Russia exists in a living death that one worthless Romanoff may not die. In Austria a dull and commonplace man of no account sits on the throne, and, with stupid, combrous motions, prepares for the war which everyone feels to be inevitable, though where or why or by whom it is to be waged is a mystery, tell us any certainty. He belongs to the oldest reigning house in Europe, a family which is slowly decaying under the pressure of insanity, epilepsy, and other hereditary maladies, but the Hapsburgs cling with a tenacious grip to the Roman crown, and a stupendous levy of armed men has been ordered to prop up their bedridden dynasty. To the south of his territories a mystic and melancholy Oriental, whose father and brother were both lunatics, and who is alternately the deepest schemer and the most harmless drifter of the East, lurks in his seraglio and orders a series of his guards to be kept unloading lest they should go off by their own accord and scatter his corrupted brains against the wall; while to the North another crowned madman, brother and successor to a madman, howls in a padded room in the Bavarian capital and gibbers through the windows upon the subjects over whom he rules by virtue of the divine right of kings. The rest of the German states which survived the disastrous days of 1866 are governed by a multiplicity of petty princes—shadowy potentates with moribund wives and families of dubious origin; hungry, drunken monarchs who sway their hereditary sceptres in ramshackle chateaux and whose sons polish their own boots in Prussian barracks while awaiting the advent of the day when they will succeed to the inverted kerosene of their fathers and guide the destinies of a little territory a day's donkey-ride in diameter. History, so far tells of no German prince who ever took to washing, but the royal beards of Fatherland have experimented on every other form of degradation, and persistent intermarriage has spread an ineradicable taint of insanity through the ancestral humbles in which they dwelt the green cotton umbrellas of sovereignty. Denmark, which exists in Central Europe, an influence altogether dropped out of the scale and resources, is slowly dying under the rule of a foolish and stone-deaf tyrant, who has long posed before the world as a bogus philanthropist of the first magnitude; and his stone-deaf family promises favourably to keep up the traditions of the dynasty. The taint of scrofula and mental disease which a constant series of royal alliances has spread throughout, nearly every reigning house in continental Europe is now making itself felt in the palace at Copenhagen, and is also fast corrupting the sturdy physique of the descendants of the impure blood of the minor German princes of the Empire. England has given to the world a series of wooden-headed and stolid rulers of whom the Anglo-Saxon race has little cause to be proud. For many years the Guiseps, withstood the contagion. (Dull, stagnant, illiterate, meek, immoral, parasitic, and gaseous.)

mental as so many wooden gods, this cart-horse race of thirty beer-drinkers held out well against the destroying deities which, in Europe, have become the prerogative of kings; but of later years epilepsy, the sure forerunner of insanity, has appeared among them, and the great States of the Old World can now boast without fear of contradiction that very few of their anointed rulers are thoroughly responsible beings, while more than one is incompetent even to come in when it rains. Of kingly rulers there are none left, unless Humbert of Italy may be so described; the only other sovereign of recent times who even aspired to the designation was the pious Czar who went down at Sedan, and left behind him a legacy of woe which France will never forget. Such as they are, the monarchs of Europe are now filling that continent with rumours of coming bloodshed and new disaster. Lunatics, epileptics and drunkards are massing gigantic armies to guard thrones and crowns which are of use to no one but the owner; diseased and tottering potentates are feebly shoring up each other with treaties and parchments; almost every able-bodied man in a whole continent, is posing in uniform; and yet no one knows even now why the great struggle which everyone foresees should be undertaken. A huge phantasm of coming desolation looms through the mist of intrigue and royal aberration, but there is still no visible *casus belli*, and no national issue is at stake. Meanwhile, underneath the thrones of the dull, ignorant tyrants, the ground is being hollowed out by the undermining influence of dissatisfaction and incipient revolt, and the time is steadily approaching when crowns and sceptres will topple together into the abyss. Out of the chaos which is dawning a new world will be built. Monarchy has proved itself too expensive an institution to be much longer endured. The barren waste of history—the arid, lifeless, interminable desert of sand on which is written the record of the past—tells of nothing but bloodshed and horror; every hill in Europe and Asia looks down on a battle-field where human misery was piled up to avenge the petty differences of kings, and the kings of the present day are the same as those of long ago. And war has now become a terribly expensive experiment. Six months of strife costs hundreds of thousands of human lives, and amasses debts which three centuries of industry cannot repay. The last hundred years of warfare has mortgaged Europe for 3000 years to come, and yet in the whole ghastly catalogue of murder and wrong there is not written the story of one campaign which was undertaken for any other purpose than the gratification of one man's lust and malice. And, great as have been the horrors of war, it is unquestionable if the horrors of peace have not been greater still. Morally and intellectually the monarchs of the present day are the very dregs of humanity, and, if history is not a gigantic fiction, they have mostly been little else since Monarchy began. It is for the purpose of taking a hand in this great game of insanity and demonic folly that the shirt-sleeved Czar of Australia are invited to come forward and be a pale and ignominious reflex of the other Czar—the bounceable crusader who did not dare to die at Sedan. Compared with the politicians of modern Europe the history follows the higher walks of diplomacy, and the policy of the kites and crows is a refinement of the science of Government when contrasted with the ruffianly violence and dull hypocrisy which pass for statecraft in an era which is called Christian because its empty oaths are sworn in the name of a dis honoured God. Yet "Loyalty," as now understood in Australia, means that this country is called upon to cast in her lot with the dying world and share the destinies of Europe at a time when Europe is on the brink of a fatuous abyss. We are cheerfully summoned to touch pitch and not be defiled; to challenge an Imperial lunatic let loose; to go 16,000 miles out of our path to place ourselves between two millstones and grind ourselves small. There is so much to lose and so little to gain that the programme is not an attractive one. The man who seeks the lion of the desert for the express purpose of treading on its tail is not properly regarded as an individual of genius, but his action is an inspiration from heaven compared to the programme of the Imperial Federation grovellers who are now loose in this Continent.—*Sydney Bulletin*.

CHILDREN starving to death on account of their inability to digest food will find a most marvellous food and remedy, in Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites. Very palatable and easily digested. Read the following testimonial:—"I have prescribed Scott's Emulsion in cases of children suffering from wasting and mal-nutrition and can report most favourably of its good effect; it has been in each case taken most readily."—W. PERKINS, M.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent, Butlugh Hospital. Any Chemist can supply it.—A. S. Watson & Co. (Limited), agents in Hongkong and China.—*Advt.*

To-day's Advertisements.

ZETLAND LODGE.
No. 325.

AN EMERGENCY MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in FARMERSON'S Hall, Zetland Street, THIS EVENING, the 18th inst., at 8.30 for 9 O'CLOCK precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited.
Hongkong, 18th January, 1889. [91]

NOTICE. SANITARY BOARD.

THE attention of Owners of Property and their Agents is directed to Section 74 of Ordinance No. 24 of 1887, which provides that no person who shall erect a domestic building shall allow the same or any portion thereof to be occupied until such building shall have been examined by a duly authorized OFFICER of the SANITARY BOARD and certified by him as having been built in compliance with the entire provisions of the Public Health Ordinance. Notice of the completion of all such buildings, the construction of which was commenced after the passing of the Public Health Ordinance, 1887, should be sent to the Under-Secretary, Sanitary Board Room, Government Offices, Hongkong, 18th January, 1889. [103]

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

THERE will be NO COMPETITION TOMORROW (SATURDAY) at the range as previously notified. The Monthly Challenge Cup Competition will take place on SATURDAY, the 26th inst. A. SHELTON HOOPER, Hon. Secretary.
Hongkong, 18th January, 1889. [99]

